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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4902
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8002
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9099
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION BUSH VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Thursday morning's conservative Sankei
front-paged North Korea's alleged transfer of bank
accounts to China in response to US financial sanctions
on a Macau-based financial institution.

1."Bush Makes a Surprise Visit to Afghanistan for Talks
with President Karzai" New Delhi correspondent Kato of
the business-oriented Nihon Keizai commented (3/2):
"While en route to India, President Bush made a surprise
visit to Kabul Wednesday. It was Mr. Bush's first visit
to Afghanistan since the US military attacked the country
in October 2001 and toppled the Taliban regime. Following
his talks with President Karzai, President Bush attended
a press conference and expressed happiness with recent
progress in Afghanistan, citing the development of
democracy and achievements in the war on terrorism. The
president's remarks were intended to apply the brakes to
his falling support at home, and stability in Afghanistan
remains distant."

SCHIEFFER